

WHITE HOUSE
FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES

COMPASSION
IN ACTION

ROUNDTABLE

*American Indian/Alaska
Native Positive Youth
Development*



November 13, 2008

INTRODUCTION

In January 2007, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) launched a series of monthly Compassion in Action Roundtable meetings to highlight organizations, programs and policies that effectively address critical social needs. The roundtables convene and facilitate discussion between policymakers, government officials, philanthropists, and faith-based and other community service providers around targeted issues.

These events are designed to advance a broad-based reform agenda that regards frontline nonprofit organizations as central players in addressing poverty, disease and other great needs. Each roundtable highlights and explores innovative models and promising practices for government partnership with faith-based and other community organizations to solve real-world problems.

According to 2000 U.S. Census data, more than 25 percent of American Indians/Alaska Natives live in poverty, including 31 percent of Native American children under age 18. The significant challenges faced by Native American youth living on reservations and within urban Indian communities have contributed to disproportionately high incidents of suicide, child sexual abuse, substance abuse and depression.

In the past, efforts of nonprofits working to meet needs of Native American youth were often carried out with little or no coordination with similar efforts of Tribes and/or native organizations. Through government outreach to help increase awareness and understanding between the nonprofit sector and native organizations, these groups now better understand the role the others can play in delivering positive youth development programs and inspiring hope and positive growth among Native American youth.

Today's roundtable will showcase successful youth development programs that effectively partner state, local and Federal governments with grassroots nonprofits and Native organizations. Panelists will highlight the distinctive needs of Native American youth populations, including the importance of celebrating the cultural identity of Native American communities and how cultural competence is integral to any effective youth development effort.

The Faith-Based and Community Initiative is built from the conviction that the most effective way to address our communities' great needs is to draw upon the unique strengths of every willing community and faith-based partner. Through innovative models and expanded partnerships with frontline organizations, communities can battle disease and ill-health, and boost critical health resources for their most vulnerable citizens.

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

November 13, 2008 3:00pm – 5:00pm

3:00 pm

Welcome and Introduction

Jedd Medefind, Special Assistant to the President and Acting Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Daniel Schneider, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

3:15 pm

Capacity Building: Strengthening Communities and Grassroots Indian Organizations

D.J. Vanas, Motivational Storyteller and Author, Native Discovery Inc.

3:30 pm

Panel: Positive Youth Development

Moderator:

Commissioner Quannah Stamps, Administration for Native Americans, Administration for
Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Panelists:

Debra Naaqtuuq Dommek, Youth Representative, Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Juanita Toledo, Female Co-President, United National Indian Tribal Youth

3:55 pm

Developing Culturally Competent Resources

Pam James, Executive Director, Native Wellness Institute

Gordon James, CEO, Culture2Culture

4:10 pm

Panel: The Role of Tribal and Grassroots Organizations

Moderator:

Sheila Cooper, Director of Program Operations, Administration for Native Americans,
Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Panelists:

Lamont Yazzie, Program Manager, Navajo Nation Office of the President/Vice President

LCDR Karen Hearod, LCSW, Project Director, Choctaw Nation Mahli Issuba Family
Recovery Center

Gloria O'Neill, President and CEO, Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Julie Garreau, Executive Director, Cheyenne River Youth Project

5:00 pm

Adjourn

FBCI SNAPSHOTS: FEATURED PRIVATE EFFORTS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH

Cheyenne River Youth Project

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is made up of over 11,000 square miles with a population of 224,472 of which approximately 80,000 are Tribal members. The Choctaw Nation Health System provides comprehensive medical services to all Native Americans residing with the Nation. These services include an array of outpatient behavioral health and substance abuse treatment programs, residential substance abuse treatment facilities for adults and women with children, community outreach behavioral health services, and prevention and education programs.

The Mahli Issuba Family Recovery Center provides a full array of individual, family, and group counseling services for children and families impacted by substance abuse. The program strives to provide substance abuse treatment for parents so that their children can remain at home in a safe and loving environment if possible. If this is not possible, the program targets parents, helping them achieve the sobriety and parenting skills necessary to regain custody of their children. Children are provided opportunities to gain knowledge of their Native American culture, to process issues related to their parent's substance abuse, and to gain positive social skills and self-esteem.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Cook Inlet Tribal Council is a progressive Alaska Native non-profit organization located in Anchorage, Alaska. Our mission is to develop opportunities for Alaska Native people, model and share new ways of overcoming challenges to disadvantaged communities, and draw on our successful experience to inform evolving national policies designed to address the disadvantaged, especially Alaska Native people. We serve our participants through programs that address education and workforce development, programs that strengthen and support families, and assist individuals with finding a path to recovery from addiction.

We seek broad-based partnerships involving our community, government agencies, private sector philanthropy, and socially responsible investors — based on the belief that we share a common interest in finding new and better strategies for addressing the social, educational, and economic issues of our time. We believe that the future demands genuinely innovative approaches that move away from programs that tend to define communities by their problems. Instead, CITC seeks programs and solutions based on a positive and self-fulfilling vision of the future - a future of individual and community self-sufficiency, and of unlimited potential.

We are a learning organization dedicated to constant improvement, maximizing program effectiveness through rigorous evaluation, expanding self-sufficiency, and amplifying beneficial outcomes through a network of partnerships. In short, we seek to develop new century strategies that allow communities to take control of their future, by increasing their capacity for sustainable self-sufficiency - both social and economic.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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National Wellness Institute

The Mission of the Native Wellness Institute is to promote the well-being of Native people through programs and trainings that embrace the teachings and traditions of our ancestors. The Native Wellness Institute was founded in 2000 by a group of Native wellness "movers and shakers." Headquartered in Oregon, NWI is proud to be a progressive yet grass-roots national nonprofit organization.

The National Wellness Institute has five main focus areas: (1) Healthy Relationships and Parenting: The "Leading the Next Generations-Healthy Relationship" Curriculum and Training of Trainers certification program includes healthy positive parenting skills, and traditional and culturally relevant teachings. (2) Youth and Adult Leadership: Healthy Leaders create healthy communities. Healthy Youth leaders become healthy adult leaders in generations to come. (3) Workplace Wellness-Staff Development: Healthy workers deliver healthy services that people need and deserve. (4) Technical Assistance-Strategic Planning, Program Design: Provides program design, group facilitation, and analysis or trainings specific to each community's need. (5) Wellness Retreats, Conference and Trainings: Retreats, conferences and trainings provide growth, awareness, healing, and personal and professional development.

Native Discovery, Inc.

Native Discovery Inc. was started in 1999 to serve tribal communities at every level, promoting education, leadership, and personal excellence, and raising our conditions of existence and achievement nationwide. Over 468 tribal nations have participated in pursuit of this goal. This work is accomplished through keynote and workshop presentations as well as written and recorded material. Other program participants include entities that support tribal development such as Head Start, ACF, TANF, ANA, ICWA, Early Childhood Development, Indian Health Service, and programs dedicated to promoting fatherhood, healthy families and the protection and development of children — our most precious natural resource.

Navajo Nation

In 2004, the Navajo Nation, a federally recognized tribe located in the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a unique National Native American Mentoring Program to serve children whose parent(s) are incarcerated in tribal, state or federal prisons.

Building on the strong network of Boys & Girls Clubs located in Indian Country, the Navajo Nation teamed with local Boys & Girls Clubs to establish and implement the National Native American Mentoring Program over a three-year period. The program is grounded in each Club's philosophy of positive youth development, organizational infrastructure and appropriate personnel designated to coordinate and supervise such a mentoring program. Initially, the National Native American Mentoring Program was established in 16 Boys & Girls Club organizations that served over 20 tribes, located in the states of Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Washington. Clubs in these states were selected due to their state's high rates of incarcerated Native Americans. The result — more than 400

youth were matched with a caring adult mentor by the end of the project period.

Because of the program's tremendous success, there has been a steady interest on the part of Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country to expand upon this mentoring model. In 2007 the Navajo Nation received a second 3-year funding award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue to expand the program.

In 2007, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) agreed to embark on an endeavor to develop a mentoring program open to all youth in need of a positive role model and extra attention, regardless of their family background. Funding to establish this three-year initiative was awarded to NCAI through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. While NCAI will administer the entire project, the partnership includes 15 Boys & Girls Club organizations located in the states of Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Washington. Each local Boys & Girls Club has identified a Mentor Program Coordinator to oversee the Club's mentoring program, including supervision, oversight and monitoring of the mentors and mentees. All program coordinators are trained to be responsible for identifying youth, recruiting, training, and supervising mentors, and most importantly, monitoring the relationships between the mentors and mentees. A

training manual has been adapted for specific use by the Club sites.

The Navajo and NCAI mentoring programs will be in place until 2010. Each national partner works with Boys & Girls Clubs of America and FirstPic, Inc., a consulting firm that has been instrumental in establishing Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country since 1996 and has overseen several national program initiatives in Indian Country. FirstPic, Inc.'s strong relationships and nationwide knowledge of Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country facilitates the implementation of the National Native American Mentoring Program.

United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY)

United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) is a national network organization promoting personal development, citizenship, and leadership among Native American youth. UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement. The heart of UNITY is its affiliated youth councils which are sponsored by tribes, Alaska Native villages, high schools, colleges, and urban organizations. The UNITY Network consists of more than 200 diverse youth councils in 34 states. For more information, please visit www.unityinc.org.

FEDERAL EFFORTS IN AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the important role that faith-based and community organizations play in helping us to better serve populations in need. Through our partnership and grant opportunities, USDA welcomes faith-based and community groups as important partners in our domestic food and nutrition, international food aid, and rural development programs.

USDA has seven mission areas that offer programs to American Indians and Alaska Natives: Natural Resources and Environment; Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Rural Development; Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; Food Safety; Research, Education, and Economics; and Marketing and Regulatory Programs. The American Indians and Alaska Natives: A Guide to USDA Programs document describes the USDA programs and services available to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. To view this guide, visit <http://www.usda.gov/documents/AmerIndianNativeAlaskaGuide-07%2011%2007.pdf>.

Some highlights include:

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) is a Federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma. Currently, there are approximately 243 tribes receiving benefits under the FDPIR through 98 Indian Tribal Organizations and five State agencies. To learn more about FDPIR and other FNS programs, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpi/default.htm>.

The Women, Infants, and Children program administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provides more than 30 Tribes with specific supplemental foods, nutrition counseling, and access to health services to low-income women, infants, and children with high nutritional risk. For more information on the WIC program, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>.

USDA's Rural Development provides programs that bring housing, community facilities, utilities, and other services to rural communities, including American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. In each state that serves Federally or state recognized tribes, Rural Development has designated an AI/AN Coordinator to assist tribal customers in understanding and accessing the agency's many programs and resources. These programs include Infrastructure Grants, Rural Business Enterprise grants, and Community Facilities loans and grants. To read stories of successful partnerships between Tribal members and Rural Development visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/aian/index.html>.

To learn more about other programs available to Native American and Indian Americans, please visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=NA_PROGRAMS.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. Each year, HHS administers more grant dollars than all other Federal agencies combined — distributing 60% of all Federal dollars awarded. With programs covering a wide spectrum of activities, there are many opportunities for faith-based and community organizations, as well as tribes and tribal-serving organizations, to partner with HHS. For more information on HHS, visit www.hhs.gov/fbci.

Indian Health Service

Within HHS, The Indian Health Service (IHS), is responsible for providing Federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS is the principal Federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people, and its goal is to raise their health status to the highest possible level. The IHS currently provides health services to approximately

1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 557 Federally recognized tribes in 35 states. For more information, visit www.ibs.gov

Access to Recovery

In the 2003 State of the Union Address, President Bush announced a new substance abuse treatment initiative named the Access to Recovery Program (ATR). This initiative provides people seeking drug and alcohol treatment with vouchers to pay for a range of appropriate community-based services. Since its creation, HHS' ATR has expanded capacity, supported client choice, and increased the array of faith-based and community based providers for clinical treatment and recovery support services. ATR's voucher system allows clients to choose where to receive substance abuse clinical treatment and recovery support services (RSS) based on the provider network.

Currently, ATR partners with five tribal organizations to implement ATR in their areas: Alaska Southcentral Foundation, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc, Cherokee Nation, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc, and Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council. For more information, visit www.atr.samhsa.gov

Administration For Children and Families

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within HHS is responsible for Federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. ACF oversees over 60 programs and ten regional offices with a budget approaching \$50B. ACF programs aim to achieve the following:

- families and individuals empowered to increase their own economic independence and productivity; strong, healthy, supportive communities that have a positive impact on the quality of life and the development of children;

- partnerships with individuals, front-line service providers, communities, American Indian Tribes, Native communities, states, and Congress that enable solutions which transcend traditional agency boundaries;
- services planned, reformed, and integrated to improve needed access;
- and a strong commitment to working with people with disabilities, refugees, and immigrants to address their needs, strengths, and abilities.

Through its Federal leadership, ACF seeks to form innovative partnerships with State, local and Tribal governments; other Federal and relevant public and private agencies; and community-based and national organizations, including Native American entities and frontline service providers. Together with its partners, ACF strives to empower individuals, families, and communities to enhance their social and economic independence and to promote a better quality of life.

Most ACF programs touch American Indian/Alaska Native communities; below are highlights from just a few of ACF's programs.

In March of 2006 HHS released a study titled, *Barriers to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native American Access to DHHS Programs*. That report, based on interviews with Federal staff, Tribal and Native Organization grantees and applicants and with Tribal leaders, cited significant barriers with immediate and long-term recommendations to remove those perceived barriers. ACF immediately took steps to implement those recommendations, several of which were already standard operating procedures.

Every two years ACF publishes a Tribal Resources Directory. The purpose of this Tribal Resources Directory is to provide useful information on programs funded by ACF for American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages and/or Native American organizations.

This Resources Directory includes profiles of ACF programs for American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages and/or Native American organizations that are eligible to apply directly or where, by law, receive services through the States. Each program profile describes the *program's purposes, funding uses, types of awards, and funding levels*, as well as *eligibility requirements, application instructions* for funding and a *program contact*. In addition, the Directory includes a list of the Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Providers who offer not only program specific T/TA but also in many instances T/TA that is designed to meet the unique needs of Tribes and Native organizations as they design projects and develop applications for financial assistance. The Directory is posted on-line, shared at regional consultations, conference and meetings in an effort to ensure Tribal applicants have sufficient information of available ACF funding. Through this valuable document ACF addressed the Access Report concerns of awareness of financial assistance, funding timeframes, access to Federal program staff contacts and technical assistance in application development.

Office of Head Start

Starting early, the Office of Head Start (OHS) promotes school readiness for American Indian and Alaskan Native children ages birth to five and pregnant mothers. OHS provides funds in the total amount of \$182,238,905 to 194 Tribes, which includes 45 villages in the State of Alaska, and a combined 22,935 children in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. In August 2008, OHS awarded a total of \$332,000 to 42 Head Start Tribal programs in technical assistance funds, to assist programs in meeting the required teacher credentialing as required in the Reauthorized Head Start Act of 2007. In addition, the reauthorization of the Head Start Act has language addressing funding levels for services, T/TA and for Tribal Colleges, required annual consultation with Tribes, supports to foster partnerships and a research agenda.

Administration for Native Americans

The 109th Congress passed the Esther Martinez Act (EMA) (PL 109-394) which legislated funding for Native language projects that specifically identified Native American language nests and Native American language survival schools. The expansion of the program to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages through immersion is reflective of inherently native intergenerational learning as elders pass not only words but cultural concepts to the young. The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) has administered the Native American Languages Act since 1990 (PL 101-477). From 2000-2007 ANA has funded 254 projects totaling over \$56 million or an average of 59 projects at \$7 million per year. In FY 08 (first competition for this new legislation) ANA funded 6 EMA specific projects totaling \$1,158,922. The tribes and non-profit organizations that will implement these projects, as specified by the EMA, will set a foundation of knowledge and lessons learned as other Tribes and organizations strive to attain the threshold of immersion competency. ANA administers two other discretionary program areas, however, the program to preserve native languages and culture truly touches the core of traditional wisdom and knowledge to foster a sense of identity for youth, their families and their communities,

Children's Bureau of ACYF

The Children's Bureau provides support to Tribes via its 10 Regional Offices and its training and technical assistance network with resources that specialize in child welfare topics such as child abuse and neglect, youth, foster care, adoption, organizational improvement, data and technology and legal issues. The training and technical assistance network has been designed to improve child welfare systems and to support systemic change that results in improved safety, permanency and well-being for children and their families. Additionally, HHS published a forecast

of tentatively Planned Grant activities for FY 2009 which includes a proposed National Resource Center for Tribes (NRCT) which would become part of the existing training and technical assistance network. The proposed NRCT would be the focal point for culturally competent training and technical assistance to Tribes regarding child welfare issues and would increase cultural competence and sensitivity to Tribal voices in the network and among the state child welfare programs.

On October 7, 2008, President Bush signed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) which includes direct access for tribes to the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs beginning in fiscal year 2010. Over the next several months, the Children's Bureau will be working closely with interested Tribes by providing technical assistance and training and will be working to provide one-time start-up grants to interested Tribes as provided by the law. This law provides new resources for Tribes to improve and enhance their child welfare programs to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of at-risk children.

Family Youth Services Bureau of ACYF

FYSB's Tribal initiatives, collaborative efforts and funding across its four program areas are carried out by the the FYSB Tribal Team in Central Office and in the Regions. FYSB programs – Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Community Based Abstinence Education, Runaway and Homeless Youth and Family Violence Prevention Services Act – together fund over \$17 million in discretionary, formula grants, and training and technical assistance to Tribes and Native communities across the Nation. FYSB's programs are designed at the community level, supporting the government-to-government relationship between the Federal government and Indian Tribal governments.

Office of Child Support Enforcement

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) Tribal Child Support Enforcement Program is a Federal/Tribal, partnership to authorize direct grants to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to operate Child Support Enforcement Programs and collect child support for American Indian and Alaska Native Children. The programs' principal goal is to ensure children have the financial support of both parents.

OCSE fosters positive relationships and equitable partnerships between the Federal Government and Federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in order to better serve children and families in Indian Country.

On March 30, 2004, the Final Rule on Tribal Child Support Enforcement Programs, (45 CFR, Part 309) was published in the Federal Register. Since that time, OCSE currently funds 30 Comprehensive Tribal IV-D Programs and 12 Start-up Tribal IV-D Programs

Since the publication of this Final Rule on Tribal Child Support Enforcement Programs, OCSE funded Comprehensive Tribal IV-D Child Support Enforcement Programs have collected \$59,770,134 in Child Support for American Indian and Alaska Native Children, as well as for cases referred by State IV-D agencies to Tribal Child Support Programs for the collection of Child Support. OCSE funded Comprehensive Tribal IV-D programs have also established Paternity for over 50,000 Indian Children; Established thousands of Child Support Orders; and OCSE funded Comprehensive Tribal IV-D Programs annually carry thousands of Child Support cases, ensuring American Indian and Alaska Native Children have the support of both parents.

For more information on ACF programs please go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov> and to access the 2008 ACF Tribal Resource Directory go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>

Administration for Native Americans

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) was established in 1974 through the Native American Programs Act (NAPA). ANA is the only Federal agency serving all Native Americans, including 562 Federally recognized tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations and Native populations throughout the Pacific basin (including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

ANA promotes the goal of self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing social and economic development opportunities through financial assistance, training, and technical assistance to eligible Tribes and Native American organizations representing nearly 4.3 million individuals. To achieve this mission, funding is provided through discretionary grants to eligible Tribes and Native organizations on a competitive basis. In Fiscal Year 2003, Congress appropriated \$45.5 million for Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) Projects, Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Projects and Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Projects.

Our major goals are to:

1. Assist Tribal and village governments, Native American institutions, and local leadership to exercise control and decision making over their resources;
2. Foster the development of stable, diversified local economies and economic activities which will provide jobs, promote economic well-being, and reduce dependency on public funds and social services;
3. Support local access to, control of, and coordination of services and programs that safeguard the health and well-being of people and are essential to a thriving and self-sufficient community.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP): Tribal Youth Program

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program (TYP) supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. Many AI/AN communities face chronic under funding for their justice systems, lack access to meaningful training for law enforcement and justice personnel, and lack comprehensive programs that focus on preventing juvenile delinquency, providing intervention services, and imposing appropriate sanctions. Furthermore, while violent crime arrest rates have declined throughout the United States, they continue to rise in tribal communities. According to data from OJP's Bureau of Justice Statistics, American Indians experience violent crime at a rate twice that of the general population. Of particular concern to tribes and OJJDP is the increasing number of violent crimes committed by and against tribal youth. OJJDP is collaborating with tribes on a number of programs to address this disturbing trend.

- In FY 2008, eighteen awards of \$300,000–\$500,000 were made to Federally-recognized tribes. The Tribal Youth Program solicitation provides a 5-year grant period which includes a planning year. OJJDP provides extensive training to the TYP grant recipients in completing their comprehensive strategic plans, including training that focuses on successful community planning through an intensive, one-on-one approach. Tribes were encouraged to partner with faith-based and community organizations through subgrant opportunities.
- OJJDP funds the Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grant (TJADG) program, which funds program reform that holds AI/AN youth accountable for their offenses. In FY2008, OJJDP

made three awards totaling \$1.0 million to Federally-recognized tribes.

- In FY 2008, OJJDP awarded a continuation cooperative agreement to Education Development Center, Inc., to fund a Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Center for the provision of culturally sensitive T/TA to all Federally-recognized tribes in Indian Country and for TYP grantees. The technical assistance provided includes: access to professional staff with expertise in developing cultural based approaches to prevention and intervention, capacity building, strategic planning; program implementation; program evaluation; and program sustainability.
- In FY 2008, OJJDP provided \$2 million in funding for mentoring programs to at-risk Native American youth. In addition, \$2 million was provided to Big Brothers Big Sisters for mentoring programs in Indian Country.
- Since FY 1999, OJJDP has awarded 321 grants to 299 Federally-recognized tribes to help them develop and implement culturally sensitive programs in the five following categories: Prevention services to impact risk factors for delinquency, Interventions for court involved tribal youth, Improvements to the tribal juvenile justice system, Alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, Mental health program services.

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Research Projects

Evaluation of the Tribal Youth Program (TYP Evaluation) – Consulting Services & Research, Inc. (CSR, Inc.), Arlington, VA
CSR, Inc., is conducting a process evaluation of all Tribal Youth Program projects beginning in FY2003 to the present, FY2008. The overarching goal of the national process evaluation of the tribal youth program is to gather information about the Tribal Youth Program, its grantees, and the impact of its funded activities, which will allow TYP staff and OJJDP to

better serve AI/AN youth and families. The national process evaluation of tribal youth program is expected to conclude mid-2009, and final report is expected by the end of 2009.

Project Venture Implementation Research Study – The National Indian Youth Leadership Development Project, Gallup, NM

The National Indian Youth Leadership Development Project is conducting a study of Project Venture (PV), a nationally recognized substance abuse and delinquency prevention program currently being replicated in more than 50 American Indian and other communities around the nation. The model is guided by American Indian traditional values such as family, learning from the natural world, spiritual awareness, service to others, interconnectedness, and respect. While the project has been implemented nationally, little is known about its implementation in areas outside of its home (Gallup and McKinley Counties, NM). The purpose of the study is to investigate, describe and analyze dynamics of the dissemination and implementation of this project in American Indian and other communities to more fully support the translation of scientific prevention findings to service the needs of youth and communities. In doing so, the study hopes to contribute to a general understanding of implementation science and practice, as well as to the effectiveness of PV and similar models. The study is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

Evaluating the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Juvenile Wellness Court – American Indian and Alaska Native Programs Office, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

The University of Colorado at Denver, in collaboration with the Southern Ute Indian tribe, is carrying out a collaborative evaluation of the TuuCai Tribal Juvenile Wellness Court. The Healing Wellness Court was established through OJJDP's juvenile drug court program for substance-involved American Indian youth on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in

Ignacio, CO. The project is fostering a collaborative evaluation to describe the implementation process, assess and facilitate movement toward full implementation, evaluate short-term outcomes and provide groundwork to evaluate long-term youth outcomes. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

*Promising Practices in Tribal Youth Programming –
American Youth Policy Forum, Washington, DC*

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is carrying out a qualitative study to document three case studies of ongoing Tribal Youth Programs. These narratives will provide a picture of promising practices in tribal youth programming, showing connections among infrastructure, funding and the leveraging of resources (e.g., volunteers, faith-based connections). To date, five tribes have been visited. The final report is expected by end of 2008.

*National Report on Tribal Youth –
National Center for Juvenile Justice, Pittsburgh, PA*

OJJDP is focusing significant attention and funding on the needs of tribal youth, yet not much is known about the incidence of juvenile delinquency and victimization in Indian Country. One reason may be that juvenile justice data systems have not been adequately tapped to provide a detailed portrait of the incidence of tribal youth in the juvenile justice system and the system's response to these youth. Through OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program, the National Center for Juvenile Justice is working to prepare a report to fill this information gap. NCJJ is working with researchers in the field to explore and utilize data that capture information about the population of tribal youth and their families, the risk and protective factors they experience, offending and victimization. The report will also provide information about the juvenile justice system's response to tribal youth. The goal is to produce a report that captures a similar level of data shared in OJJDP's National Report on Juvenile Offenders and Victims. The report is expected in mid-2008.

*Minority Youth Border Research Initiative –
Pima Prevention Partnership, Tucson, AZ*

Pima Prevention Partnership (PPP) is investigating why justice-involved, tribal and minority youth in Southwestern border communities are at greater risk for early onset of substance abuse, and long-term persistence of delinquency, victimization, and mental illness as compared with their non-minority youth peers. As part of the Minority Youth (MY) Border Research Initiative, PPP is conducting a comprehensive meta-analysis of existing quantitative and qualitative data from approximately 625 delinquent youth who received one or more best practice substance abuse and/or delinquency intervention curricula and will use their findings to develop recommendations regarding specific service needs of juvenile justice-involved minority youth in Southern Arizona. The final report and "Best Practice Guidebook" is expected in June 2010.

*Tribal Youth Victimization and Juvenile Delinquency Study –
Prevent Child Abuse America, Chicago, IL*

Prevent Child Abuse America in partnership with the National Indian Child Welfare Association and other partners (Purdue University, Macro International, and key Native American researchers) is using mixed methods of quantitative and qualitative data collection to explore the extent and severity of tribal youth victimization and delinquency. This research will increase knowledge of the severity and extent of tribal youth victimization in selected communities; enhance knowledge of tribal adult caregivers' perceptions of youth victimization and assess caregivers' knowledge of intervention/treatment resources for tribal youth; describe the tribal leadership knowledge of youth victimization, juvenile delinquency and prevention resources; provide details on the accessibility and resource availability of service providers; and summarize the research findings. The final report is expected in September 2010.

White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities

"Tribal Colleges and Universities help preserve irreplaceable languages and cultural traditions. At the same time, of course, they offer a high quality college education to thousands of students, and provide much needed job training and other means of economic development in Indian country... All Americans deserve an excellent education, including those who attend Tribal Colleges and Universities."

— PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

President Bush recognizes the important role Tribal Colleges and Universities play in American Indian communities, and on July 3, 2002, signed Executive Order 13270 to establish the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities and the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Located mainly in the Midwest and Southwest, 32 Tribal Colleges and Universities are Federally recognized in the United States, serving approximately 30,000 full- and part-time students. These institutions offer two-year associate degrees in over 200 disciplines, vocational certificates in 200 different programs, and several bachelors and masters degree options.

Tribal Colleges and Universities are both integral and essential to their communities, and are often the only postsecondary institutions within some of our Nation's poorest rural areas. Tribal Colleges and Universities serve a variety of people, from young adults to senior citizens, American Indians to non-American Indians. They also provide crucial services and add hope to communities that suffer high rates of poverty and unemployment. For more information, please visit www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/whtc/edlite-index.html.

BIOGRAPHIES

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

■ SHEILA COOPER

*Director of Program Operations
Administration for Native Americans
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Sheila joined the staff of the Administration for Native Americans in June of 2000. Prior to joining ANA, she had achieved a decade of impressive Federal experience obtained by working as a program specialist for the Office of Indian Education at the Department of Education and for the HHS American Indian/ Alaska Native Head Start central program office. Recently, Sheila completed a detail assignment to the ACF Office of the Assistant Secretary to chair an internal task force to address the needs of Native children and youth. In that position Sheila advised the Assistant Secretary on policy and process improvements relating to the services provided to Tribes and Native organizations. To accomplish this work Sheila met with agency principals, Tribal leaders and representatives, and Native organizations. In addition, she researched agency, Federal and other sources for promising practices, statistics, and trends in social and economic development that impact children and youth.

Overall, Sheila's Federal work experiences have included assisting Federally-recognized tribes, non-Federally recognized Tribes, native organizations, school systems and individuals throughout the country in accessing Federal resources in order to achieve their self-determined goals. Within the Federal system she has written legislation, conducted consultation, and developed policy supportive and responsive to American Indian and Alaska Native needs. Prior to her Federal experience, Sheila managed pre-school education programs for her Tribe, was a teacher in public pre-school programs and elementary schools, and was an elected school board member for a boarder town public school.

■ DEBRA NAAQTUUQ DOMMEK

*Youth Representative
Cook Inlet Tribal Council*

Debra Naaqtuuq Dommek is Iñupiaq from the northern community of Kotzebue, Alaska and currently attends the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Though only 20, Debra has been said to have an "old soul." A former student in Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Educational Services, for the past 5 years Debra has taught and shared Alaska Native culture through dance and storytelling with the general public. She emerged as a cultural leader through her work with CITC and her participation in the Search Institute's Developmental Assets National Conference. She was the lead narrator in the documentary film, *Asveq: The Walrus Hunt*, that has been shown at film festivals throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 2004, she was a recipient of the Cultural Pursuits Spirit of Youth Award for her leadership in the community. Debra worked as a drummer and singer in creating the first ever Alaska Native traditional music album, *Drums of the North*. As a young representative of her Iñupiaq culture, Debra feels she has much to learn and share with the world.

■ JULIE GARREAU

*Executive Director
Cheyenne River Youth Project*

Julie Garreau is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and is the Executive Director of the Cheyenne River Youth Project®, located on the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD. Julie has been CRYP's director since the organization's 1988 inception, volunteering in the position for 12 years. She began working for the organization full-time in 2000.

A graduate of South Dakota's Huron University, Julie was the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's Education

Services Specialist for 15 years, and during that time she served for five years on the C.R.S.T. Police Commission — three of those years as chairperson. She also has served as a field coordinator for Running Strong for American Indian Youth®, a national not-for-profit organization and CRYP partner.

In her nearly two decades with CRYP, Julie has received the South Dakota Volunteer of the Year Award (1991); the Presidential Points of Light Award (1992), presented by President George H.W. Bush; Father Hogeback Service to Native American Children Award presented by St Joseph's Indian School (1995); Lakota Nation Invitational Tournament Public Service Award (1993); the North American Indian Women's Association Fellowship "Among All Peoples" Award (1999); and the Garden Supply Company's First Place "Garden Crusader" Award (2005).

In 2002, the South Dakota Coalition for Children named CRYP a "Champion for Children," and Julie was named to an honor roll that recognized its 16 members' outstanding dedication to South Dakota's children. Her name also appears on the Honor Wall at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Julie was honored by her community in September 1992, when she received her Indian name Wicahpi Eyutan Win, (meaning "Touches the Stars Woman" in Lakota), a name that reflects her people's recognition of her dedication, vision and commitment.

■ KARI HEAROD

LCSW, Project Director

Choctaw Nation Mahli Issuba Family Recovery Center

Since November 2007, LTCR Karen Hearod has served as the Project Director for the Choctaw Nation Mahli Issuba Family Recovery Center. This program, funded by an Administration of Children and Families Regional Partnership Grant, serves Native American

children and families impacted by the devastating effects of parental substance abuse.

Hearod began her Federal career with the Indian Health Service stationed at the Wewoka Service Unit in the Oklahoma Area. During her tenure, she served as the clinical social worker and the director of the Wewoka Chemical Abuse Prevention Program. She was also selected as the Oklahoma Area Representative to the National Suicide Prevention Network. This group was given the task of developing and implementing suicide prevention strategies for youth in Indian Country.

In August 2007, Hearod, who is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, was offered a chance to return home and serve her tribal community. Since that time she has participated in the SAMHSA Policy Academy for Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Disorders in Native Communities and is a member of the Choctaw Nation Meth Initiative Committee. These two initiatives are working to integrate our behavioral health and substance abuse services and encourage collaboration with our community, state, and Federal partners. Hearod received her Bachelor of Social work degree from Oklahoma's East Central University and her Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. She and her husband, Kevin, have three teen-age children, Jordan, Caitlin, and Caleb.

■ GORDON JAMES

CEO

Culture2Culture

Gordon James is from the Skokomish Indian Nation. He shares from his extensive experience working throughout Indian Country, including: People Development — providing training programs for individuals, families, organizations and communities, and improving personal, professional or community

development; Curriculum Development — including government to government relations, substance abuse prevention and cultural preservation, and interpersonal relationship skill building; Program Development - coordinating and managing service programs including family support services, volunteer services, and substance abuse prevention and intervention; or Administration and Planning — including successful program administration, proposal writing, and tribal governance, including eight years as Chairman of the Skokomish Tribal Council, the governing body of the Skokomish Tribe. Together with his wife, they wrote the book *Coming Together in a Good Way: A Native Path To Finding Love*, and the "Leading the Next Generations Healthy Relationship Curriculum". Over the last six years, Gordon has co-designed and been the lead trainer for the "Government to Government Training", offered through the Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. This training is offered monthly to state agency representatives at various locations throughout the state.

■ PAM JAMES

Project Director

The Native Wellness Institute

Pam James is from the Colville Confederated Tribes. She is the Project Director for The Native Wellness Institute, "Leading the Next Generations-Healthy Relationship Curriculum" and The ANT Project "All Native Training". Pam has over two decades of experience in Tribal Social and Health Services field, and is a national and international Trainer and Consultant. Pam also maintains her cultural and traditional practices. She has extensive experience in directing, managing and designing social and health service programs, youth program development, program administration, compliance, proposal writing, national conference planning. Over the last six years, Pam co-designed the "Government to Government Training", offered

through the Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. This training is offered monthly to state agency representatives and Tribes at various locations throughout Washington. She also worked with her husband to develop Culture2Culture Training and Consulting.

■ GLORIA O'NEILL

President and CEO

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Ms. O'Neill is originally from Soldotna and is of Yupik/Irish descent. Gloria began working at Cook Inlet Tribal Council more than ten years ago, holding many different positions in the agency before her 1998 appointment to President/CEO. Under Gloria's guidance, the organization's annual budget has grown from \$8.8 million to over \$40 million, reflecting the expansion of innovative services to assist people in Anchorage and the Cook Inlet Region to achieve self-sufficiency.

Gloria is very active in civic and community affairs within Anchorage, statewide and on a national basis. She currently serves as a board member of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. Board of Community Advisors, Anchorage Museum Building Committee, University of Alaska Anchorage Advisory Board, Alaska Mental Health Board and the U.S. Census Bureau Advisory Committee on Race and Ethnicity for American Indian and Alaska Native Populations.

Among her accomplishments, Ms. O'Neill received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Alaska Pacific University in 2000. Awards include Light of Hope 2003; Athena Society Member 2001 from the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding leadership, excellence, and dedication to promoting women in business; United States President's Environmental Youth Award from the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's for CITC's Summer Youth Camp at Ninilchik, and "Alaska's Top Forty Under 40" from the Alaska Journal of Commerce 1998. Most recently, Gloria was recognized by BP and the YWCA of Anchorage as a Woman of Achievement 2003.

While Gloria O'Neill has helped to build an organization that embraces modern technology and innovative business practices, she never loses sight of the importance of the traditional values embedded in Alaska Native culture.

■ DANIEL SCHNEIDER

Acting Assistant Secretary

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Daniel C. Schneider, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, assumed the acting Assistant Secretary role effective April 9th, 2007. Dan joined the Department in March 2005 and has been a key member of the senior leadership team at ACF.

Daniel Schneider was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. With a \$49 billion budget, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is responsible for programs that promote the social and economic well-being of America's children, youth and families.

Prior to his appointment at ACF, Mr. Schneider served as the General Counsel at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, and programs in the humanities. During his NEH appointment he was detailed for one year to the White House Office of Presidential Personnel where he served as the Deputy Associate Director. Mr. Schneider's first appointment

in the executive branch was at the U.S. Department of Labor where he served as the White House Liaison.

Prior to joining the Bush administration he worked for four years on Capitol Hill as the Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman James R. Ryun.

Mr. Schneider came to Washington, D.C. from New York City where he practiced law with a New York-based international law firm. Before commencing his legal practice he lived in the People's Republic of China where he was the Commercial Attaché for the Kansas Commerce Department.

He holds a law degree from Columbia University and two undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

■ QUANAH STAMPS

Administration for Native Americans

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Ms. Quannah Crossland Stamps is the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans (ANA). Appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate in November 2002, Commissioner Stamps provides the executive leadership for ANA. She manages a \$46 million discretionary budget to provide funding to Tribes and Native American non-profit organizations in three program areas: social and economic development activities, cultural preservation and environmental enhancement. Commissioner Stamps oversees a community-based portfolio of over 225 projects, a \$24 million revolving loan fund for the Native Hawaiian community, and manages four national training and technical assistance contracts serving American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders on Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to her confirmation, Commissioner Stamps was a private consultant working with Tribal and foreign companies on competitive business strategies, and previously served as the Assistant Administrator for Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Commissioner Stamps is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She holds a Masters Degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University, and she lives in Arlington, Virginia with her husband Air Force Colonel Robert F. Stamps.

■ JUANITA TOLEDO

Female Co-President

United National Indian Tribal Youth

Juanita C. Toledo is a tribal member of Walatowa — The Pueblo of Jemez in New Mexico. She is the 2008-2009 Female Co-President of the National UNITY Council Executive Committee, a part of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Organization. She graduated from Walatowa High Charter School in 2006 with honors as class Valedictorian, thereafter attended the University of New Mexico. She aspires to earn her Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Native American Studies.

■ D.J. EAGLE BEAR VANAS

Motivational Storyteller and Author

Native Discovery Inc.

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas is a husband, father, internationally acclaimed motivational storyteller and success coach. He is also the author of the celebrated book *The Tiny Warrior: A Path to Personal Discovery & Achievement* which is printed in six countries. D.J. is Odawa Indian from Michigan and uses traditional warrior concepts and wisdom to inspire others to achieve their best in

life and career. For fifteen years, he's delivered his dynamic programs in 49 states and overseas to over 2,000 audiences including NASA, IBM, Walt Disney, and hundreds of tribal governments, communities and schools.

Born into desperate poverty with teenage parents, D.J. truly "walks his talk" when it comes to achievement — and shares these proven methods with his audiences. D.J. Vanas was born in Muskegon, Michigan and learned the value of service, dedication and education from his hard-working parents. His father served 22 years in the Air Force and his mother has been a nurse for 25 years. Raised in a military family, D.J. grew up in South and North Dakota, and spent most of his life in Biloxi, Mississippi. Showing motivation at an early age, he starting flying airplanes at 13 and attained a pilot's license at 17.

D.J.'s own education and personal development has been in the classrooms of the country's top institutions and in the sacred circle of the Lakota Sun Dance ceremony. His formal education took place at the United States Air Force Academy where he earned a B.S. in Management and at the University of Southern California, earning a M.S. in Systems Management. His earned titles include both the rank of Captain in the United States Air Force and the name Mato Wambli (Eagle Bear) in traditional ceremony.

As a Captain in the United States Air Force, D.J. served his country and gained extensive leadership training and experience. For several years, he worked in the Air Force Space Program, as part of an international launch team on a multi-billion dollar satellite program. He lived in the Australian outback for six months while working on this program and led an international team of engineers on the project.

D.J. was then selected as the Chief of Minority Enrollment at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado — he was the youngest officer ever to achieve this position. During this time, he selected,

trained, and led four separate teams over as many years to break records for diversity in the student body.

A motivated entrepreneur, author and professional speaker, he started his company Native Discovery Inc. in May of 1999 to "build the warriors to tomorrow... today." D.J. uses traditional warrior concepts and colorful wisdom found in Native American culture to inspire others to achieve their best in life, school and career.

In 2002, D.J. was selected to be a distinguished German Marshall Fellow (one of only 38 Americans) and traveled to Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy & Romania to improve relations between the U.S. and the European Union. Representing the U.S. and Native America, D.J. served proudly and has a new perspective on global dynamics. He is also a professional member of the National Speaker's Association & the American Indian Science & Engineering Society where he is a Sequoyah Fellow. In 2003, D.J. was inducted into the American Indian Graduate Center's "Council of 100" which is composed of scholars, leaders & traditionals across Indian Country. D.J. was selected for this honor for his "contribution as a leader in the Indian community." In 2006, D.J. was selected as co-chair of this esteemed organization. In 2007, D.J. was awarded "Educator of the Year" by the Native American Resource Group and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He is also the writer of the award-winning monthly newsletter Firelight (Ryan Editorial Award) and continues to write a monthly column in the national newspaper *News from Indian Country*.

■ LAMONT YAZZIE

Program Manager

Navajo Nation Office of the President/VicePresident

Member of the Navajo Nation, Lamont L. Yazzie is from the community of Steamboat Canyon, Arizona, located in North East Arizona. Mr. Yazzie is born into the Naakaii Dine'e (Journey People) clan, born for Tótsonii (Big Water People) clan. His maternal grandfather is Naakaii (Mexican Clan) and his paternal grandfather is of the Tachii'nii (Red Streak Running into Water) clan.

Lamont serves as Program Manager for Presidential Initiatives for the Navajo Nation Office of the President/Vice President in Window Rock, Arizona. Since 2001, he has worked with the Boys & Girls Clubs on the Navajo Nation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the Navajo Nation government in an effort to coordinate Boys & Girls Clubs on the Navajo Nation, serving over 9,000 youth. He has been integrally involved in the process of designing, developing, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of program operations and outreach efforts of the Boys & Girls Clubs within the Navajo Nation.

Lamont has prior experience in managing quality programs through his work as Staff Assistant on Intergovernmental Affairs, Regional Director at Diné College, the nation's oldest and largest tribal college, Indigenous Language Immersion educational research team-member, and Director of Navajo Head Start program.

Other current projects assigned to Lamont include the monitoring of Navajo Nation Boys & Girls Clubs, Navajo Head Start/Early Head Start, Navajo Language Immersion, and Navajo Amber Alert project. Lamont is an adjunct faculty member at Diné College and currently serves as the Treasurer of the Apache County Democratic Party.

COMPASSION
IN ACTION
ROUNDTABLE

